The Lions' Pride

THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP

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Bicycles: Campus Transportation or University Nuisance

By Rhiannon Flanagan
Contributing Writer

Bicycles are often used as the alternative transportation to walking around the Saint Leo University campus. However, the simple vehicles have become problematic; locked on lampposts, parked lazily in front of residence halls and left without any form of identification.

Nevertheless, one might understand that the real problem with bicycles on campus is the lack of student awareness. For instance, many students have never seen the bike policy or heard of the registration process.

Ashley Butler, a resident assistant for the Marmion and Snyder residence hall, explains that someone helped her to register her bike; however, she did not know the process until she had someone else give her a hand.

For many students like Butler, the registration process is not clearly spelled out in any online outlets. Therefore, many students ride their bikes on campus unknowingly without registration and risk having their bike confiscated.

Accordingly, Campus Security has given insight into how a bike is confiscated after being parked inappropriately or unregistered.

"We'll confiscate it," said a member of the campus security department. "Either put it back here (campus security office), or if there is no room here, we usually bring it down to the parking garage."

Consistently, they explain how it is returned to the owner if reported missing. In efforts with residence life, they utilize the records kept at the residence life office to identify the owner, which is usually a difficult task if it is not registered.

"It's a 30-day wait period, and we let Res-life know that we have it," said the representative from Campus Security. "Most of the time a student will come running in here saying 'somebody stole my bike,' and we get a description, and they verify it and we give it back to them."

Photos by Kadyann Stupart

Accordingly, Campus Security has given insight into how a bike is confiscated after being parked inappropriately or unregistered.

The Office of Residence Life offers the official bicycle policy in their guide to residential living found on a web link to hubspot.net.

According to the guide, "Unregistered bicycles will be removed and stored at the owner's expense. Unregistered bicycles will be tagged with a registration reminder notice no less than 14 days before they are to be removed. Bicycles that have been removed by Residence Life will be stored for 30 days; after 30 days the confiscated bicycles will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of."

Other than registering bicycles, students should store bikes in the correct manner and in the proper location. Improper storage of bikes leads to confiscation. As reported in the guide above, "Residence Life will attempt to contact the owners of bicycles stored, locked or abandoned in areas other than student rooms and bicycle racks (such as light poles, fences, stairwells, hallways, lounges, etc.). If the bicycle is not registered, it is subject to the same removal process."

Accordingly, preventing situations like confiscation takes a quick registration at the Office of Residence Life. The Saint Leo website directs students towards contacting Residence Life to register and receive their free bicycle decal, and the office offers to answer questions and walk students through registration swiftly.

But for those in need of more information, the registration process is listed below:

1. Visit the Office of Residence Life
2. Fill out a form with a Saint Leo student ID number, phone number, bicycle serial number and the permit barcode number given at the Res-life office
3. Obtain a free bike decal with an identification barcode
4. Place the bike decal on the bicycle so that it may be identified if missing or stolen.

Once registered, students still might find that having a bike on campus can be somewhat problematic. Specifically, the issue at hand is the lack of bike racks and bike trails across campus. Furthermore, popular areas, such as the dining hall and the library, only have three spots for parking, while Saint Edward Hall has no spots for bikes. The large number of bicycles parked in the grass or up against buildings reveals this increasing problem. For example, there is a pile of bikes laying by the bike racks near the entrance of the Marmion and Snyder residence halls. Therefore, students may be at a disadvantage considering the lack of bike racks and the growing number of bicycles present on

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Bicycle Permits are available at the Office of Residence Life, on the ground floor of Apartment 6.

Photos by Kadyann Stupart

The issue at hand is the lack of bike racks and bike trails across campus.

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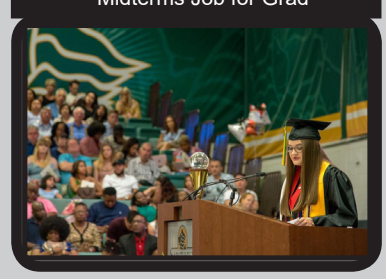
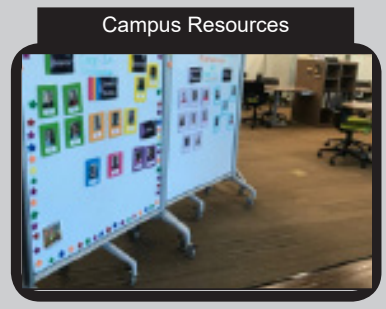


Campus Resources



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Campus News

How Old Should Kids be Before Getting a Cell Phone

By Zoe Dmuchowsky
Staff Writer

Photo by: Wikimedia Commons

High School is the ideal time for kids to start getting their first phones.

The allure of getting your first phone can be an exciting time for anyone of any age. The idea of having your own device to call and text people on can be rather exciting. A cell phone is not only an outlet for contacting others but a form of independence for teenagers as well. They allow kids to branch out and explore the internet from anywhere they have service or Wi-Fi. There are ways to explore music as well as interests in areas such as photography. Having a phone provides a gateway to many areas we wouldn't normally have access to.

Along with having a phone comes great responsibility. The price of the phone alone can be a scary thought as well as the cost of getting it fixed should it break or have problems. Most parents are not going to invest too much money in a first cell phone as they know many things can happen to it and it will be the first experimental cell phone. This all comes into play when considering getting a cell phone for a kid.

I believe a kid should get their first cell phone at 14 years old. While this may seem like an older age than most, I believe it is the safest age for many reasons. At this age, many kids will be in their high school stages and this is a time when most of their peers will already have cell phones of their own. To prevent a child from feeling left out from their generation, getting a cell phone will allow them to be part of the greater picture.

Any younger than 14 will comprise a child's ability to grow and explore and just be a kid. Technology seems to overtake many children of this generation and it is sad to see parents being part of the problem. If a kid is getting a phone in middle school or maybe even elementary, I feel there is a deeper problem overall that steams from the parents. Kids should be kids while they can and not try to conform to every belief of their peers.

I chose the age of 14 for many reasons. Along with being in high school, kids like to hang out and meet up with one another, and a cell phone is a great way to do this. Without access to a cellphone, kids would be forced to wait until they got to a home phone to be able to make calls to plan a future outing. Cell phones allow groups of friends to make group chats and constantly stay connected even while they are not still in the same vicinity. Group chats allow for instant contact as well as a platform for new ideas. These chats are often experimental and creative, a reason for a child to want to participate in one with people they know.

Many reasons for getting a phone have to do with the social wellbeing of kids regarding the age of obtaining their first cell phone. Not only does social status play a large role in this acquisition, but also personal safety. For me, I like to have the security of having a cell phone on me when I have to walk home or be out in unfamiliar areas.

Having a cell phone allows kids to keep their parents up to date about their whereabouts as well as when they can be expected back home should something come up. I think that cell phones provide a certain piece of mind to parents that is much needed in this crazy day and age.

By allowing kids to have cell phones, we are allowing them to provide us with information regarding their safety and wellbeing. I believe this is one of the many reasons parents will buy their children cell phones since it does provide some sense of relief knowing your kid is okay and safe.

Another argument about children and cell phones that comes up is the actual type of phone. Parents can either purchase a smartphone or a cell phone. A cell phone would likely be the most basic model available for a child and would limit their ability to do much outside of texting and calling. This can be an option for some as the internet can be a scary place with no limits and parents may want to protect their children from it.

A phone can be for the sole purpose of calling and texting and taking limited amounts of pictures, but I know many kids like myself would prefer to have something a little more advanced. This is where a smartphone can come in to fill the technology gap. A smartphone, in contrast, can be purchased which will make surfing the web a breeze. Smartphones expand the limits for children regarding exploring all it has to offer. This can be a major difference for parents when contemplating which to purchase for their child.

Overall, I find 14 to be a solid age for children to get their first cellphone, whether it be a smartphone or just a regular flip phone. It is up to the parent to decide what is right for their family and what they feel comfortable with.

Money is another factor when considering getting a phone for a young one. The actual cell phone has a fixed cost as well as the monthly expense for texting, calling and data. This can be a source of financial strain for some. Therefore 14 is a good age as it saves money from not paying for one in the prior years. Many cell phone services do have family plans available for multiple lines; these can help save costs incurred from the acquisition of a cell phone.

An interesting concept in our generation is the age at which we got our first cell phones. We were the first generation to have smartphones at such a young age, and I find it interesting to see if our generation will be more or less lenient due to our experience with them.

Do you agree with the suggested age group for cell phone use? Leave a comment for us under this article on Facebook or our website:

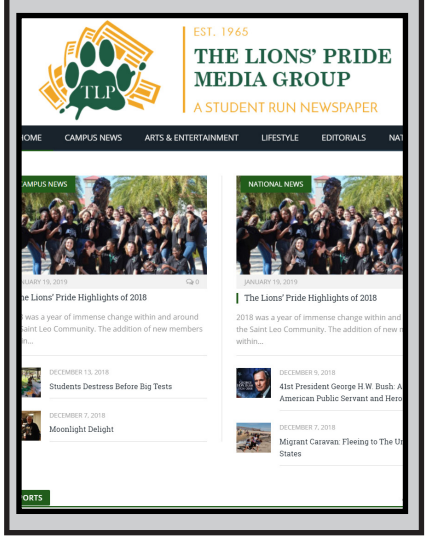

Photo by: Wikimedia Commons

Kids needs to be kids before they get their first cell phone and miss out on that window of opportunity to explore.

Campus News

Bicycles Cont.

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campus. Consequently, many of the bikes that are improperly stored have tags with warnings of confiscation.

Other than lack of storage, the steep hills and populated areas present some other issues, such as a concern for safety. For example, there have been claims of students falling off their bicycles while traveling on the populated sidewalks. Furthermore, some students have had struggles traveling down the hill to Marmion and Snyder, which included flying over the handlebars of their bicycle while attempting to hit their brakes to slow down.

AJ Oreto, a freshman commuter recalls the danger created for those walking in bicycle-populated areas of campus.

"I've been almost hit plenty of times because a lot of people tend to not pay attention to their surroundings and it's pretty scary," said Oreto. "When going up or down a hill, people tend to not watch for bikers, so they just need to be more observant."

ATTENTION
PLEASE MOVE YOUR BIKE TO A DESIGNATED BIKE RACK.
IF YOUR BIKE IS NOT MOVED TO A DESIGNATED RACK BY,
YOUR BIKE WILL BE MOVED BY CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS ISSUE.
Office of Residence Life – (352) 588-8268

Photo by Kadyann Stupart

Many of the bikes that are improperly stored have tags with warnings of confiscation.

Generally, the area of campus featuring the Student Activities Building, Kirk Hall and the dining hall has daily traffic that makes it hard for those on bikes to navigate. More importantly, there is also a risk for those who ride recklessly, and it is something that is hard to control.

In regards to the issue of safety, Campus Security speaks to the use of any non-motor vehicles on campus and advises that students use the same legal discretion that they do on any road.

Correspondingly, the University's code of conduct provides some rules and restrictions to the use of these modes of transportation.

Withal, the lack of student familiarity with bike policy and the abundance of bicycles on campus demands indefinitely for more precautions and storage availability to keep the university scenic and safe.

Inaugural MLK Celebration Reveals Dreams

By Brianna Pearson

Campus News Editor

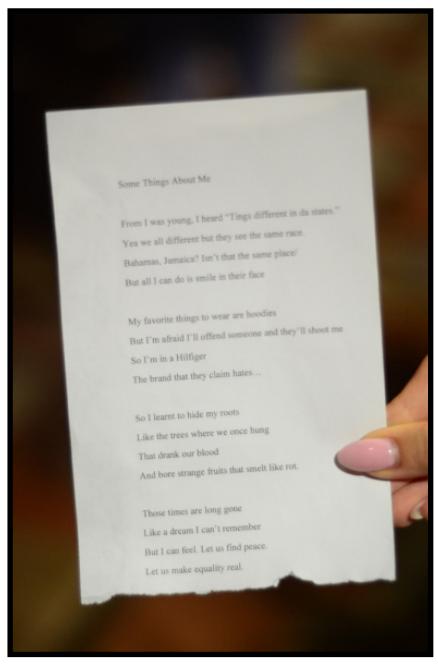
On Jan. 22, the SCC Boardrooms warmed University Campus with a solemn event in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The Inaugural MLK Day Celebration came just one day after the holiday observance. The evening was hosted by Gerard Wiltshire, and he did an amazing job announcing the performers and keeping everyone intrigued. The first performer was Derick Mcintosh followed by Nicholas Fox, Julenny Rodriguez and Erika Girad. Each performer read an original poem, and each poem expressed different views on Martin Luther King Day. The event which filled the SCC Boardrooms with scores of students was made into a warm environment, which was also extremely cozy.

With dim lights, couches, string lights and a fireplace projected on the screen, viewers felt comfy and cozy as they listened to some moving poetry. It was important to performers and the staff who pulled together the event for the audience to understand the importance of Martin Luther King Day.

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. came on stage and distributed candles to the audience while Jarred Pernier explained the importance of what MLK day meant to him. They then went to the statue outside of the SCC loggia.

Snacks were also offered during the event. The audience members munched on ham and turkey sandwiches and pastry platters while communing with their fellow classmates and members of staff.

See more photos from the event on our Facebook page: The Lions' Pride Media Group


Some Things About Me
From I was young, I heard "Tings different in da states."
Yes we all different but they see the same race.
Bahamas, Jamaica? Isn't that the same place/
But all I can do is smile in their face
My favorite things to wear are hoodies
But I'm afraid I'll offend someone and they'll shoot me
So I'm in a Hilfiger
The brand that they claim hates...
So I learnt to hide my roots
Like the trees where we once hung
That drank our blood
And bore strange fruits that smelt like rot.
Those times are long gone
Like a dream I can't remember
But I can feel. Let us find peace.
Let us make equality real.

Photos by: John Hall

Lifestyle

Campus Resources

By Peter Bialkowski
Contributing Writer

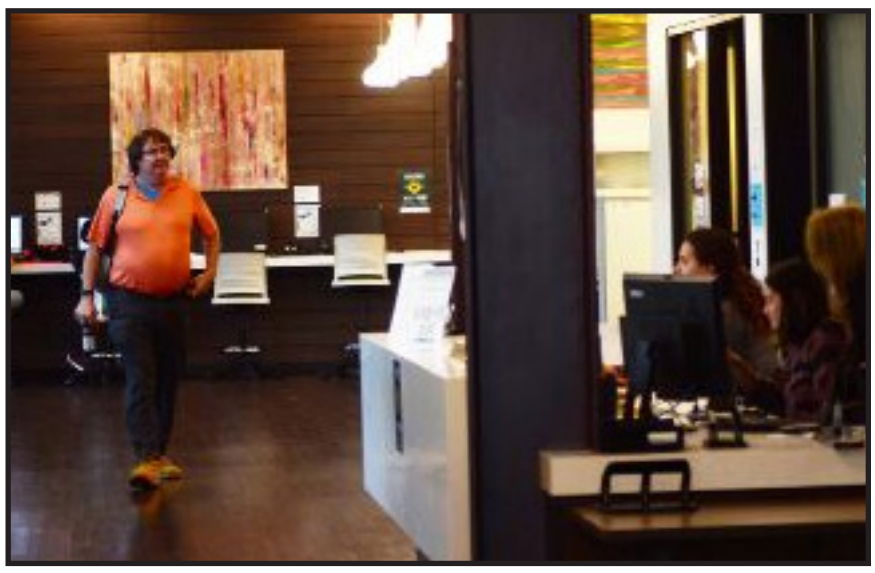


Photo by: Peter Bialkowski

Students can schedule appointments at Career Services or meet with a tutor in Kirk Hall.

If you are in need of assistance when in college, do you know where to go for help? Campus resources are often under-utilized and overlooked by students. Whether it's getting help with your paper or having a colleague check your resume, most students fail to recognize the amount of resources available at their university.

Saint Leo has an undeniably large amount of academic resources around campus, one of the most important being your academic advisor. Academic advisors are simply one of the most important people you will meet from the time you become a student to the time you get your degree. Not only are they available to help you set realistic goals and deciding on a major, but they are there to keep you on track toward graduation. As your "go-to" person, your academic advisor will be there for you throughout your college journey.

Another resource that can be extremely helpful to students is tutoring at the CAVE. Located on the first floor of Kirk Hall, the CAVE offers free tutoring to students in every subject field for any student in need. Working with a tutor, students can review assignments, exam topics or even just touch base. With no appointment needed, any student can show up to the CAVE and get assistance.

If you are in need of finding a job or internship, or you are just lost in the process of deciding your major, Saint Leo's Career Services is the place to reach out to. Right on the first floor of Kirk Hall, Career Services is responsible for assisting students with every step of the career journey. Students can either schedule an appointment online or in person to meet with a member of the team. From getting advice on developing your resume to interviewing skills, Career Services is a major resource for you to get guidance on the career path you are pursuing.

Similarly, one of the most forgotten, but most important resources is the library. Not located in the center of campus, students often disregard the library and miss out on all of its advantages, one of those being the Writing and Research Support system. Students who struggle with writing can simply log on to the SLU library website, click on the "Writing and Research Support" link under the "Get Help" tab and sign up for assistance to improve writing and critical thinking skills from writing professionals. The library cannot only help students with writing but can also offer assistance with finding the proper research that will propel their writing in the right direction.

College is one of the most stressful situations a young adult can be in; while Saint Leo has many academic resources that students can utilize, the university also has counseling services that are there to help students with their wellness. DeChantal Hall offers free sessions for students, so, any feelings of anxiety, depression or confusion can be dealt with in the best way possible. Saint Leo wants their students to be happy and healthy, both mentally, physically and emotionally. Counseling services is likely to be the most important resource on this list, so it is urged to take advantage of.

Another resource, aside from academic resources are the fitness centers on campus. While you may be thinking of the workout room mainly used by athletes, another gym is located in Apartment 5 on the east side of campus. While it is significantly smaller than the workout room, this gym consists of treadmills, ellipticals and bike machines students can use at any time. It isn't even limited by sports' schedules, as the main workout room is. If you are looking to get into shape, this room is worth checking out.

From tutors, advisors, counselors and technological services, Saint Leo offers a wide range of resources right on campus that are easily accessible to students. As a fellow student on campus, I urge you to check out these campus resources; you won't regret it!

The Lions' Pride Weekly Word Search

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ADVISORS
CAREERS
CAVE
COUNSELING
DECHANTAL
DIRECTION
GOALS
GROWTH
GYM
HEALTH
HELP
LIBRARY
KIRK
RESOURCES
TUTORS

Don't forget the Annual Kumquat Festival is this Saturday, Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is free for all that want to attend. Location: Dade City Downtown

Local

Working on Mid-term Election Campaigns After Graduation

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

Cassidy Whitaker, a Saint Leo alumni who majored in political science and minored in journalism, graduated last Spring and making a significant impact in her local community. Whitaker currently works as the District Secretary for State Representative Adam Hattersley of Florida's 59th House District covering a region within eastern Hillsborough County. Her job roles include managing the district office and handling constituent service within the district. Since graduation, she had a "whirlwind" experience - as she described it - because she had various jobs before she was hired onto her current one; her various jobs were in her political realm during the campaigning for the most recent midterm election.

"I worked two other jobs prior to my current one. My graduation in late April was right at the brink of when most of the midterm election campaigns were gearing up for the primaries in August, so I first worked two campaign jobs during the summer and fall after graduating," said Whitaker. "First, for State Representative Amber Mariano's re-election campaign for her House seat and then for Kimberly Overman's campaign for a seat on the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. I was very lucky and feel so grateful to have made the connections that I did that gave me the opportunity to work for these two women's campaigns that helped me get to where I am now."

She described her experience working on the campaigns last year, and she compared working on actual campaigns versus her previous experiences volunteering for campaigns.

"I had volunteered for a major campaign in the past and had some very limited experience with mock campaigns for my classes and helping my friends with their SGU races, but this summer was my first time ever working full time as a legitimate campaign staffer, and campaigns are hard. They're exhausting and stressful and challenging, but they're also so rewarding and enriching and give you the opportunity to meet the most incredible people," said Whitaker.

Along with working on campaigns for SLU elections and engaging in mock campaigns during her classes, Cassidy had various leadership roles on campus, including Editor-In-Chief of The Lions' Pride, which prepared her for her post-graduation jobs.

"My studies and everything that I learned and experienced at Saint Leo impact my job every day. The courses that I took, the opportunities I seized, and the professors that guided and taught me throughout my time at Saint Leo are the foundation of my knowledge of the political process and the significant effect of politics on our daily lives within our country and around the world. Of course, there's a lot that you can learn in the field as you go, but there's also a whole lot that you need to understand beforehand to be effective in creating the most change possible," said Whitaker.

She also contrasted her post-grad experiences regarding her work life with her home life, which she described it as surprisingly pleasant. She mentioned that she was not looking forward to moving back home, but talked about the benefits of doing it.

Photo provided by Cassidy Whitaker

Whitaker was honored to give the commencement speech at her Spring 2018 graduation.

"Like many college seniors approaching graduation, I dreaded moving back home after living with my friends in my own place for four years (sorry, mom)," said Whitaker. "Although I quickly realized after being home that I really enjoyed being back with my family and other close friends that I hadn't spent meaningful time with in a long time."

Her friends were also very impactful to her Saint Leo experience, and she mentioned regrets regarding her final semester at Saint Leo.

"One [thing] that I have that I wish I had done before graduating was make and complete a 'Saint Leo bucket list' with silly experiences unique to our school like going to the Grotto at night or sharing one last night at Pin Chasers or Applebee's with my friends. I told my friends that I wanted to do this throughout my final semester, but sadly got caught up with the chaos that your last semester in college entails and never ended up doing it. However, despite not officially making my Saint Leo bucket list, I had an absolutely unforgettable final semester," said Whitaker.

She even advised seniors to learn from her mistakes and to spend time enjoying their final semester at Saint Leo.

"My advice for the senior class would be to enjoy every moment of this last semester and take advantage of every last opportunity available to you. I know this is what literally every nostalgic post-grad says, but it really is the truth. Although I'm very happy with where I'm at in my life now, there are very few days that go by that I don't miss Saint Leo and the blissful simplicity of life in college," said Whitaker.

She also took time to give advice to freshman, focusing on how they can appreciate and cherish their time and their overall journey at Saint Leo.

"Advice that I would give to the freshman class about graduation would be to not wish that it would come sooner. Work hard in your classes and get as much out of the remarkable professors and courses that Saint Leo has to offer as possible and seek out and take advantage of the experiences to be had from every possible opportunity available, but savor your time here and don't wish it away. As far as after college, I'd say to just trust that Saint Leo has prepared you for the bright and successful future that lies ahead of every one of its graduates."

She commented on the months following graduation, and what she wished she knew but what she had learned since then.

"Before graduation, I wish I had known that the next nearly seven months were going to be some of the most challenging times of my life, but that afterwards everything was going to be unbelievably worth it and that I was going to end up exactly where I'm supposed to be," said Whitaker.

Other than talking of time at Saint Leo and her post-grad challenges, Whitaker looks to her future as well. She mentioned a future career goal and how her current position as a district secretary can help her in achieving her goals.

"My ultimate career goal is to run for office someday. I don't yet know what I want to run for or when I'd even feel fully ready to do something that big, but I know without a shadow of a doubt that public service is what I want to do," said Whitaker. "My current job as a staffer for a legislator will definitely aide me in reaching my ultimate goals in the future because I'm getting to experience the political process firsthand and help serve the members of my community with issues they care about and that affect their lives. You hear the phrase 'All politics is local' a lot in my field, and I really believe that this couldn't be truer. Politics is fundamentally rooted in grassroots organization and the work of passionate activists, and it all starts at the local level."

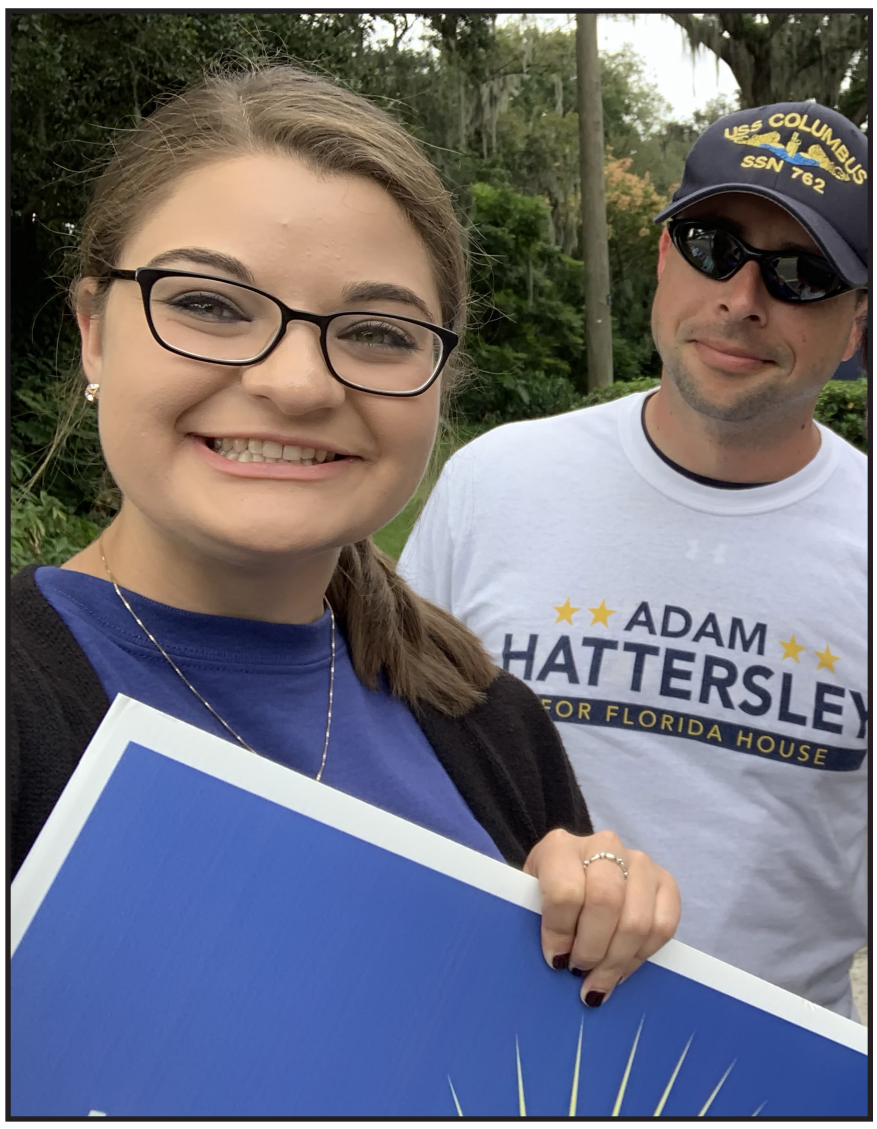

Photo provided by Cassidy Whitaker

Whitaker worked on Kimberly Overman's campaign last year. Overman won the election to become the new county comissioner for Hillsborough County.

Arts & Entertainment

No Downside to "The Upside"

By John Hall
Editor-In-Chief

"The Downside" is a lightly comedic drama directed by Neil Burger who also directed "Limitless" (2011) and the "Divergent" series (2012-2014). The film is a remake of the French film, "The Intouchables," and is the fourth of its kind to emulate the life of Philippe Pozzo di Borgo.

The film follows Philip Lacasse, (portrayed by Bryan Cranston) a billionaire writer who becomes paralyzed from the neck down following a paragliding accident. Lacasse's assistant Yvonne (Nicole Kidman) interviews a host of candidates to find a live-in caretaker for him when they come across the unorthodox Dell Scott.

Scott, a recent parolee, is in search for a job but has no desire to be subservient to anyone. Lacasse and Scott become entangled as the former hires the convict, much to the behest of Yvonne who monitors Scott's handling of Lacasse with watchful eyes. The plot of the movie and its message purport acceptance, second chances and the intangible gift of life.

The characters are fresh and fleshed out, with motives that compel the audience to crave more for each arc with which they are presented. The characters are not gleefully living their lives but experiencing heartache and genuine issues, forcing a level of empathy that the audience cannot avoid.

Kevin Hart is not his stereotypical arc where he is funny and struggling to be serious. Instead, Hart is stoic and has a comedic element that gives his arc substance. Cranston, who is a seasoned actor, is compelling as a person with quadriplegia, as we feel his pain (or lack thereof) and see the world as he sees it- both good and bad. Together, the actors show something onscreen that speaks to the level of friendship they both fostered offscreen and is telling of the growth Hart has experienced through working with the cast.

The plot is fostered through the actors and the weight of the story that compels them, reaching immediate viewers as something that could happen to them at any point. The failed father in Kevin Hart, the single struggling mother arc of his ex-girlfriend, the person that uses a wheelchair and is unable to express themselves fully in tandem with the pain of losing a loved one resonates most with moviegoers.

Critic reviews are mixed with movie aggregates. Rotten Tomatoes have the film at 39 percent out of 100 percent with the audience score sitting firmly at 88 percent as of Jan. 21. Market Research firm released the poll of the movie of audience goers who class the movie as an "A" on the A+ to F scoring range.

The movie critics argue that although the chemistry between Hart and Cranston is good, they are not new characters to the silver screen. While their comments are true, it does not substantiate, in my opinion, the low score given by any with the remark, as all character arcs are rooted somewhat in the journey of the hero presented by Joseph Campbell.

The film is not left without controversy as Twitter users have lambasted the film for not having an actual person with quadriplegia in the role of Phillip

Photo by @brookiebucky

"The Upside" is not tainted with Kevin Hart's usual, heavy humor but is supplanted by the humor produced through a beautiful situation-ship between Hart and the cast.

Arts & Entertainment

Lacasse. The uproar caught the attention of The Daily Show host, Trevor Noah, who cites the attention given to the argument.

Noah cited the remarks of a self-claimed quadriplegic who wrote that when roles such as Cranston's show up, he sees it as an opportunity to shine as he has the tools necessary to supply the character. It brings into the realm of conversation how vital representation is in films, as no more accurate representation could be found than in someone that lives an experience every day.

Despite the reviews of the critics, audiences have enjoyed the portrayal of this true story, and it is deserving of the praises that it has received thus far. Overall, the movie receives 5/5 paws for a movie well executed.

Photo by @variety

The film creates a view for audiences that engages them early in the film and compels them to continue watching.

Photo by @fandango

"The Upside" brings an element of reality to the silver screen that is jarring and mouth dropping from the performances each actor lends.

Sports

Let Me Do Both: Kyler Murray's Choice

William Burns

Contributing Writer

Photos courtesy of @saintleowgolf

In the 2018 college football season, Murray was nothing less than stellar. His pass completion percentage was 69 percent, completing 260 of 377 attempted passes for a total of 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns.

It is common in high school for a competent student-athlete to play multiple sports at very competitive levels. Unfortunately, these athletes are normally required to choose which sport they want to devote their time and resources towards in order to get the coveted college offers. However, it becomes rarer for athletes to play multiple sports in college, much less be stars at both of the sports, and have the opportunity to play at the professional level.

Kyler Murray is a stud. Plain and simple. This Oklahoma Sooners athlete has already been drafted by the Oakland Athletics but constructed his deal so that he could play in his football season because he had the possibility of starting. Well start he did, and he continued starting games and winning games and did so well that he was selected as the Heisman Trophy winner.

In the 2018 college football season, Murray was nothing less than stellar. His pass completion percentage was 69 percent, completing 260 of 377 attempted passes for a total of 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns. Pair that with another 1,000 yards of rushing yards and 12 more touchdowns with only seven interceptions, he captured a 199.2 rating.

While playing baseball for Oklahoma before he was drafted, Murray put together a great season in the outfield for the Sooners. With limited at-bats for the Sooners Murray put together a .296 average with 56 hits, 10 home runs and 47 RBI's on the season. This along with great speed and defense got him drafted ninth overall in the first round of the draft, with a contract guaranteeing around $5 million.

So, what is the outcome of this whole situation? What are the factors that Murray has to consider when he has to choose between professional football or professional baseball? At this level, it is virtually unheard of to play both sports at the same time. Murray will need to consider career length, career earnings and risk of injury to name a few.

Let's talk about money. If Murray decides to pursue a career in football, he would have to return the $4.66 million signing bonus that Oakland gave him.

However, that would be small potatoes compared to what he would get in the NFL. In a recent mock draft, Murray is projected to go top 10 and receive over $15 million guaranteed in his first football contract.

If he emerged as a legitimate quarterback in the NFL, his second contract would be multiple times larger. If he stayed with baseball, his signing bonus would be his to keep, but rookie contracts are capped around the $700,000 range. For example, Andrew Benintendi was drafted in 2015 and was a big part of the Red Sox World Series win but still only made $620,000. If Murray just wants money, then he needs to go the football route.

Injuries happen often in both sports. In football with Murray's style of play of running and getting outside the pocket, he will be susceptible to big hits by powerful NFL defenses that he did not face in college. MLB careers are normally less injury prone and normally are longer. The NFL is doing a lot to help the injuries and is implementing new rules to keep players safe, and there are good quarterbacks in the NFL that are older and still successful, like Drew Brees and Tom Brady. When you crunch the numbers the average career length in the NFL is three and a half seasons, and for the MLB it is five and half years. Now there are definitely exceptions and good players can play for nearly 20 years. He also needs to consider guaranteed money in contracts as opposed to incentive-based contracts because even if he is injured, he still gets guaranteed money.

Murray will be facing the biggest, life-altering decision of his life soon, and both careers will be lucrative. Either way, he loves the games and has the potential for very promising careers in both sports.

Photos courtesy of @sortsblog

What are the factors that Murray has to consider when he has to choose between professional football or professional baseball?